

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

USMISSION NATO

OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112611

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM USUN NEW YORK DATED MAY 11, 1977  
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, SF, WA

SUBJECT: BRIEFINGS ON CAPE TOWN TALKS

REF: USUN 1453

1. ON MAY 10 WESTERN FIVE IN NEW YORK APPROVED TEXT OF  
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"INFORMAL BRIEFING POINTS" ON CAPE TOWN TALKS TO BE PASSED  
TO CAPITALS FOR APPROVAL AND TRANSMITTAL TO POSTS, AS DISCUSSED  
IN REFTEL. FIVE AGREED THAT PAPERS SHOULD NOT BE LEFT WITH  
FOREIGN MINISTRIES WHICH ARE BRIEFED. TEXT, AS DRAFTED  
BY UK MISOFF RICHARDSON, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

2. THE FIVE WESTERN SECURITY COUNCIL MISSIONS AGREED YESTERDAY TO RECOMMEND A FORM OF WORDS THAT MIGHT BE USED IN REPLY TO ENQUIRIES ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CAPE TOWN TALKS ON NAMIBIA BY GOVERNMENTS NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED IN THE QUESTION. SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT TO MISSIONS IN THE FRONT-LINE STATES (TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, BOTSWANA, ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE) AND TO NIGERIA.

3. THE FIVE MISSIONS THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT NOT TO INSTITUTIONALISE EXCHANGES ON NAMIBIA WITH GOVERNMENTS THAT WERE LESS DIRECTLY AFFECTED, WHILE RECOGNISING THAT THESE WOULD WANT SOME GENERAL INDICATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE CAPE TOWN TALKS, WHICH IT WAS IN THE FIVE'S INTEREST TO GIVE THEM. THE FIVE MISSIONS THEREFORE PROPOSE (UNLESS THEIR CAPITALS SEE OBJECTION) THAT THEIR MISSIONS ELSEWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN AFRICAN POSTS OTHER THAN THOSE REFERRED TO ABOVE, MIGHT DRAW ON THE POINTS SET OUT IN PARA 3 BELOW. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE INAPPROPRIATE TO MAKE COLLECTED DEMARCHES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS, AND THIS IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF THE POINTS BELOW WERE DRAWN UPON ORALLY AS NECESSARY BY MISSIONS IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF THEIR BILATERAL BUSINESS.

4. THESE POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

(A) THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE POWERS, ACTING AS A CONTACT GROUP, MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN CAPE TOWN ON APRIL 27, 28 AND 29. THE TENOR OF THE DISCUSSIONS CAN BE CHARACTERISED AS SERIOUS THROUGHOUT. THE CONTACT GROUP MADE CLEAR THAT IT SPOKE FOR NO ONE BUT ITS CONSTITUENT

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GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT ITS PURPOSE WAS NOT TO NEGOTIATE BUT ONLY TO EXPLORE.

(B) IT WAS AGREED BETWEEN THE CONTACT GROUP AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THE PURPOSE OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE TO DEVELOP AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPOABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN ISSUE. THE CONTACT GROUP EMPHASISED THAT THIS SHOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385, AND THE DISCUSSIONS IN CAPE TOWN CONTINUED ON THAT BASIS. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THERE WERE A VARIETY OF WAYS IN WHICH THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF SUCH A SOLUTION COULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

(C) THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AGREED TO THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS, ON THE BASIS OF UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WHOSE TASK WOULD BE TO DECIDE UPON A CONSTITUTION FOR AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. IT ALSO AGREED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT UN INVOLVEMENT IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS SO AS TO ENSURE THAT ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON A FREE AND FAIR BASIS, AND TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT AGREED

THAT ALL PERSONS AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL VIEWS, WOULD BE FREE TO PARTICIPATE PEACEFULLY IN THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS AND THE ELECTIONS THEMSELVES AND THAT ALL PERSONS BORN IN AND RECOGNISED AS INHABITANTS OF NAMIBIA, WHO ARE NOT NOW IN NAMIBIA, WOULD BE FREE TO RETURN AND PARTICIPATE PEACEFULLY IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.

(D) THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AGREED TO REFRAIN FROM SEEKING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF THE TURNHALLE DRAFT CONSTITUTION. IT IS SAID THAT IT WAS COMMITTED TO TURNING OVER SOME OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES IT NOW EXERCISES TO A CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR NAMIBIA WHICH WAS NEEDED TO UNIFY THE TERRITORY AND TO REPEAL DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION. THE FIVE POWERS SAID THAT THEY COULD NOT OFFER CONSIDERED VIEWS WITHOUT FURTHER INFORMATION ON THESE PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS.

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(E) FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES WILL BE REQUIRED OF A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS OF THE CONTACT GROUP BELIEVE THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE IN NAMIBIA. WHILE THEY HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, THEY ARE ENCOURAGED BY THESE INITIAL TALKS TO BELIEVE THAT A POLITICAL PROCESS FOR NAMIBIA CAN BE DEVELOPED IN WHICH ALL POLITICAL GROUPS, INCLUDING SWAPO, CAN COMPETE FAIRLY FOR POLITICAL POWER.

UNQUOTE  
LEONARD UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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